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Welcome to 2D's Summer Magazine

2D Dates for your Diary...

- **Thurs 5 August**
Family Play Day, 10-4,
Hamsterley Forest
- **Thurs 30 September**
Annual General
Meeting
- **Sat 30 October**
Make a Difference
Day, the UK's biggest
single day of
volunteering
- **Sat 20 November**
Community Festive
Fair, Bishop Auckland
College



www.2d.org.uk

The Mighty Myers...



Former 2D Chair, Brian Myers (above with 2D CEO Michele Armstrong) has passed on the chain of office as chairman of Durham County Council to Coun Mac Williams.

A dinner was held in June to mark the end of Brian's term as council chairman,

an extraordinary year in which he raised £100,000 for local charities. Seventy thousand pounds has gone towards the Legs for Lyndon appeal, the courageous Lyndon Longhorn from Crook lost his legs and an arm to meningitis. Another £20,000 will help the breast cancer appeal launched by singer Chyrelle Addams (AKA Trish Greensmith) a trust 2D helped set up – "Brian's been like a second father to me," Trish said – A further £670 for the Heart of Durham Scanner Appeal, was collected at Coun Myers' end-of-term civic dinner.

Michele Armstrong attended the dinner and says "I am so pleased to see Brian recognised for all the fantastic work he has done for charities in the Durham Dales. Everybody was very supportive and grateful of what he has achieved during his time as chairman. Congratulations from everyone at 2D"

Voluntary & Community groups awarded cash from small grants funds...

2D are pleased to announce the first round of funding from the Weardale, Three Towns and Teesdale Action Partnership Small Grants schemes, which 2D are administering.

Successful groups were:

The Weardale Action Partnership (WAP)

Small Grants Fund is to support local groups working within the WAP area. Groups can apply for grants from between £50- £1,000. The successful groups so far from Weardale are:

- Witton le Wear Community Association to help the group organise a Village Fair
- Jack Drum Arts towards their World Environment Programme
- Weardale Open Air Swimming Pool Association for lifeguard training
- Wolsingham Rainbows for equipment to support their activities
- Barrington Village Hall Playgroup to support their weekly activities
- The French Connection for the Weardale French Festival

There is also a separate Personal Progression Fund up to £350 for individuals to enhance their employment prospects where there is no other funding available.

The Three Towns Partnership- Events

Small Grants Fund is for groups within Crook, Willington and Tow Law wanting to hold events. The minimum grant will be £100, maximum £1,000.

The successful groups so far from the Three Towns area are:

- Crook Community Partnership for the Crook in Bloom festival
- Willington Wombles for equipment to hold 4 tidy up days in Willington
- Oakenshaw Community Association towards the purchase of a marquee.

Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP) - TOPS

Small Grants Fund is to support local groups/organisations working within the TAP area who are improving the lives of local older people. Groups can apply for grants from between £50- £1,500.

The successful groups so far from Teesdale are:

- Abbeyfield Barnard Castle Society Ltd.

For accommodation refurbishment

- Evenwood and Ramshaw Community Association to pay for lunches for the over 55's
- Staindrop Women's Institute for a visit to the Wenslydale Creamery
- Bowes Agricultural Society to purchase new equipment
- Mickleton Wednesday Club for a day trip
- Teesdale U3A to purchase new equipment
- Cockfield Christmas Lighting Fund for a Christmas tea for elderly residents

Teesdale Village Halls Consortium are administering the TOPS fund, for more information or an application pack contact 01833 696650

Michele Armstrong 2D's CEO says "This is a great opportunity for local voluntary and community groups as often it's the small amounts of money that can make the most difference. Plus it's encouraging to see the AAPs working closely with Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) and beginning to understand the importance of smaller organisations".

All voluntary and community groups are still welcome to apply & while match funding is encouraged, fully funding a project will be considered. For more information or an application pack contact 2D on 01388 762220 e-mail: enquiries@2d.org.uk.

Altogether
better
Durham

Area Action Partnerships

How YOU can get involved... Community members can get involved by joining the Forum – the key role of Forum members is to set priorities which the AAP will seek to address through its projects, and to monitor the progress. It is open to everyone who lives, works, represents groups or provides services in the area covered by the AAP. The participation of Forum members is crucial in ensuring that the AAP's work is driven by local people and the issues which affect them and their community. AAP Forum events are held twice a year, and members receive regular updates on AAP projects.

If Forum members have an interest or expertise in a particular area relating to the AAP's priorities, they are encouraged to join and actively participate in the relevant Task and Finish group, where they will have the opportunity to influence the development of project ideas. Community members can also apply to serve on the AAP Board as a Public Representative, if a vacant position arises.

For further information on the role of Public Reps, Task & Finish groups & Frequently Asked Questions etc. go to www.2d.org.uk

Get in touch... See the coordinator's contact details to the right. Each AAP also has its own website (part of the DCC website) where information is made available e.g. the dates of upcoming meetings. Minutes of Board and Task and Finish Groups can be downloaded, as well as Forum event reports and other key documents.

Coordinator Contact Details
Three Towns- Sandy Denney
01388 761 989
sandy.denney@durham.gov.uk

Weardale- Andrew Walker
01388 527 254
a.p.walker@durham.gov.uk

Bishop Auckland and Shildon
Angelina Maddison
01388 761 563
angelina.maddison@durham.gov.uk

Teesdale- Anne Magee
01833 696 214
anne.magee@durham.gov.uk

introducing...

...the refresh of the County Durham Compact

The Compact is a partnership agreement between the public sector & the third sector who both have the shared aim of making County Durham the best possible place to live and work. The County Durham Compact has been developed to offer guiding principles on how the two sectors can work together to meet this objective and in ways that promote:

- **respect for each other and our communities**
- **operating in an open and honest manner**
- **recognition and value of the independence of the third sector**
- **the value of the diverse nature of communities in County Durham**
- **ensuring that everyone is treated equally and fairly**
- **the empowerment of people & communities to deliver change that meets their needs**
- **the values of volunteering & the appreciation of the impact that volunteering activity has on our society**

This Compact needs to deliver something for everyone. It is about developing relationships and getting them right so that organisations from both sectors work better together.

Part of the process to establish a good working agreement is to discover what voluntary and community sector groups and organisations think about it. We would appreciate it very much if you would read the draft Compact document which is available on our website: www.2d.org.uk/news.html and then answer the questionnaire that accompanies it. You may send your responses before 31st August 2010 to us at 2D or to Sue Graham at One Voice Network, Park House, Station Road, Lanchester, Co Durham DH7 0EX; or sue@onevoice.co.uk or telephone 01207 529621.

We would urge you to read and consider the County Durham Compact; this is your opportunity to be involved in shaping how the third sector develops its working relationship with the public sector.

Need help to tackle home repairs or struggling to afford essential home improvements?

One of the aims of your local council is to help homeowners to improve the warmth, comfort, safety and security of local homes. Homes that are unsuitable to live in can have a negative affect on an individual's health, or their ability to continue living independently, while homes that are poorly maintained, or even left empty can have a much wider detrimental affect on the pride and sustainability of whole neighbourhoods.

Durham County Council can give advice to help you to undertake the works yourself, to give you the confidence to engage a contractor and tell him what is required & financial help, in the form of an affordable loan. There isn't limitless money, so get in touch to find out if they can help: www.helpinghandnortheast.org.uk or tel: 0191 527 0501 email: housingimprovementteam@durham.gov.uk

meet...

...James Percy, the project Co-ordinator for Museums Live!, the cultural volunteering project for West Durham.



Where have you come from?

I've just popped over the border from Tynedale. Before I took this role I was an Education Assistant at the peerless Bede's World museum in Jarrow. (If you haven't been you really should, it's ace! Full of Anglo-Saxony monkish goodness.)

Now you are here, what are you going to do?

Well, I've arrived at a really exciting time at Museums Live! We've got all sorts going on. The project has had some cracking successes in the past and I aim to build on them. We've got our regular team challenges with a ready made group of volunteers travelling round West Durham doing good

works, kind of like a cultural volunteering A-Team. We're also supporting young people in exciting placements to help them build skills and gain qualifications that'll help them find employment. I aim to keep these initiatives moving forward.

We're also involved in a new project tied to the Cultural Olympiad part of the Olympics and you should be hearing from us soon.

So what do you want from us?

We want to hear from everyone. If you are a NEET (not involved in education employment or training) and aged 16-25 then we can help you get skills and improve your employment prospects. Volunteering with us can also be a great opportunity to meet new people, make friends and new connections.

If you're not a NEET but are aged 13-19 and fancy getting involved in the new project for young people then contact me to find out more.

Finally we're always looking to hear from anyone who needs the assistance of our volunteers either from one or more young people on placement or from our roaming team of volunteers. So, if you have a problem, if no one else can help and if you can find us, maybe you can use...

Museums Live! T: 01388 537505

M: 07990 744607

Government Cuts & County Durham... You may already be aware from the TV and press that cuts are likely to affect people and projects in County Durham, much of the talk is rumour and speculation. 2D is making every effort to keep abreast with the unfolding situation. If any voluntary or community group is affected by cuts in funding, please talk to us. We can lobby on your behalf and do our best to ensure that the process conforms to the principles of the Compact. Remember that there is still funding out there, the Big Lottery and both national and local trust funds still have money to award to projects. A word of caution however, most funders will not support work which is seen to be the responsibility of central or local government. if you need help or advice please get in touch with us tel: 01388 762220.



The first week in June is National Volunteers Week. The Volunteer Centre at 2D took this opportunity to thank all the wonderful volunteers who give their time to benefit others in the community. The 2D membership is made up of many local voluntary and community groups, whose volunteers are their lifeblood. So Volunteers Week is a perfect time for groups to acknowledge these efforts and reward volunteers for their contributions.

A Celebration...

More than 90 guests attended a moving awards ceremony on 2 June at Collingwood College, Durham University to recognise and pay tribute to individual volunteers and groups that have gone the extra mile for their communities.

Volunteer Centres in County Durham are working together to promote all aspects of volunteering, in particular good practice in working with volunteers. National Volunteers Week is one of the first projects they have worked on collaboratively since establishing the new brand 'Volunteer Centres County Durham'.

They held a celebratory event, in partnership with the Phoenix Project and funded by the Big Lottery, which showcased a number of groups from County Durham, focusing on their activities, volunteers and the roles undertaken and the way in which they have been supported by the six Volunteer Centres.

Volunteers from each group spoke about what they personally gain from volunteering and what they liked about the group they volunteer for, highlighting how important it is for groups to look after their volunteers.



LEAPS and BLinD Volunteers (left) and The Chyrelle Addams Breast Cancer Appeal Trust (below)

awarded for their good practice in working with volunteers



As well as the presentation ceremony there was a buffet lunch and Trish Greensmith, the founder of the Chyrelle Addams Breast Cancer Appeal Fund, ended the fantastic event on a high note by entertaining with a selection of songs.

The Volunteer Centres County Durham 'Guide to Good Practice in Working with Volunteers' was also launched at the event. The aim of the guide is to help achieve an all round satisfying experience for the volunteer, the agency and beneficiaries.

Lindsay Wright, Development Officer for 2D said:

“Volunteers Week is the perfect opportunity to thank all the wonderful volunteers who give their time to benefit others in the community. Of course their contribution is appreciated all year round, but this is a particularly special week in the volunteering calendar. They deserve public recognition.

Volunteers should feel valued and respected and be fully involved in the organisation. Showing your appreciation with a small event or gesture can really boost a volunteer's morale, self confidence and sense of self-worth.

I would also encourage anyone who is interested in volunteering to drop into their local Volunteer Centre to find out more about the opportunities available. Volunteering plays a vital role in our community, and it could make a lasting difference to your life too! ”

For further information visit www.volunteercentrescountydurham.org

Recognised & Rewarded...

- Natural England at Castle Eden Dene
- Chester-le-Street & District Voluntary Welfare Committee
- Derwentside Citizens Advice Bureau
- Waddington Street Centre, Durham
- LEAPS and BLinD
- Chyrelle Addams Breast Cancer Appeal Trust
- Stonham
- County Durham Youth Offending Service
- Durham University Phoenix Project

Creative Volunteering...



19 year old Hannah Thompson from Tow Law is one of the latest young people in the Dales to benefit from volunteering through the Your Choice scheme.

Since leaving Wolsingham School 3 years ago, Hannah has found

it difficult to identify suitable education or training. Nevertheless, she is very creative and participates in a wide range of drama, music and art activities through her long involvement with Jackass Youth Theatre.

Working closely with the Volunteer Centre at 2D she signed up to Your Choice and within a few hours she was booked onto an aerial dance workshop in Newcastle, had joined a youth work training course and was invited to attend a national arts inclusion event in Birmingham.

Helped by her referral agency Jack Drum Arts she has developed an impressive CV and put together a portfolio demonstrating the many creative projects she has been involved in.

Along with two of her fellow youth theatre members Hannah successfully pitched an idea to a regional Dragon's Den for a grant of more than £3000 to run a day-long event for 50 young people in May, featuring bands, comedy, dance and other youth-led activities.

She is one of 4 young people from the Dales who is travelling to Brazil this summer to take part in an international youth drama festival as part of a solidarity campaign to use the arts for transformation and social change.

Hannah's story proves that as long you have a willingness to try new things, being out of education, employment and training need not mean you have no choice. Contact the Volunteer Centre at 2D on 01388 762220 to find out more.

Meet the Young Farmers of the Future...



Left to Right: Sammy David, Rachel Watson, Sam Robinson, Andy Robinson, Michael Stewart, Joe Butterfield, Nathan Darlow, Will Robinson and Alex Priestly

9 young people from County Durham have successfully gained employment thanks to the work carried out between **2D, The Rural Jobs Fund and the UTASS centre in Middleton in Teesdale.**

James Deacon-Brown, Mentoring Advisor at 2D runs a drop in at UTASS every Thursday morning. James offers advice and guidance to anyone who is unemployed and would like to find out what opportunities are available to them.

The drop in gave young people the chance to air their frustrations about personal development and access to jobs and training in a rural area.

James said:

“It is difficult for some young people (including school leavers) to find the information and opportunities they need to succeed. Not all young people want to continue with mainstream provision offered through colleges and universities so it is important to create new opportunities that cater for everyone.”

James referred the young people to Allison Rice and Paul Appleton from the Rural Jobs Team. They operate across the areas of Teesdale and Weardale and approach small businesses and organisations trying to identify new and existing employment opportunities. Through working with the UTASS centre they were able to help create work placements for 9 young people through the Young Farmers for the Future initiative.

Young Farmers for the Future is a trainee scheme that has been organised by UTASS and offers a comprehensive 12 month programme in upland livestock farming and countryside management. On top of earning a wage the young people will undertake various training courses including:

- Sheep Shearing
- Basic Animal Handling and Care
- Mole and Rabbit Catching
- Tractor Driving
- Farm Record Keeping

“I was working on a dairy farm in Cumbria but the contract ended. I wanted to find another placement but had no qualifications. This opportunity gives me the chance to train whilst doing what I enjoy.”
Said Nathan Darlow.

Perhaps you have been out of work for a while and are looking for a way to get back on track; or you are simply hoping to improve your CV by undertaking various courses or gain experience through volunteering.

Contact James to see if he can help at 2D on 01388 762220 email j.deaconbrown@2d.org.uk

Children, Youth & Family Participation



Picture: left-right:
Michael Dixon, Richard Wells,
Lianne Lowes & Robert Fothergill
Call: 01388 762220
Visit: www.2d.org.uk

Family Play Day!

Be sure not to miss out on this year's annual Play Day event in Hamsterley Forest on Thursday 5th August.

Last year attracted over 2,000 visitors and we anticipate similar numbers again this year - could visitors please try to link with locally organised transport to reduce congestion on the roads around the forest and ease pressure on parking spaces. If you wish to check details of local transport arrangements please contact your local SureStart Children's Centre or telephone us at 2D.

Some of the attractions will include: den building, climbing wall, archery, zip wire, bouncy castles, face painting, arts & crafts, drama & dance, musical workshops, soft play... and much more.

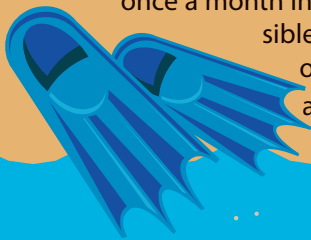
For further details or for group bookings contact 2D on 01388 762220 email: enquiries@2d.org.uk



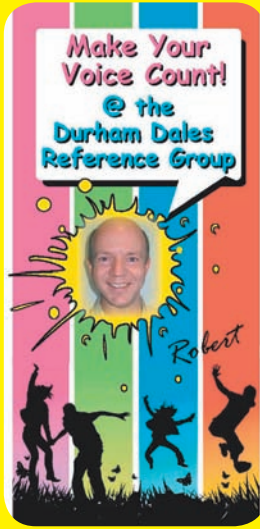
Facebook for Parents/Carers...

One of the latest ways in which we are engaging with Parents and Carers is through our Facebook profile "Durham Dales Parent Participation" -why not check this out and become a member?

Also we are developing a Parent & Carer Reference Group for the Dales - this currently meets once a month in different venues across the dales to make it more accessible; creche facilities can also be provided. If you are a parent or carer and interested in finding out more about this please contact Robert at 2D.



Make Your Voice Count! @ the Durham Dales Reference Group...



Levi and Kailum, 2 pupils from Prince Bishop Primary School, have helped design a leaflet promoting the Durham Dales Reference Group for children & young people.

Armed with the leaflets, Robert has been visiting schools and community groups across the Dales to help build up a database of children and young people who are interested in making a positive difference to their communities.

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in becoming a member please get in contact with Robert at 2D on 01388 762220 or e-mail r.fothergill@2d.org.uk.

Involvement can be at a level that suits ability and availability.

Some ideas of what the Reference Group members get up to:

- 2 young people are part of the Small Grants Fund panel deciding on how money is spent in the Dales
- The 3 Towns (AAP) Youth Forum have been looking at holiday activity trips and a Youth Celebration Event.
- Over 200 children, young people & parents helped to prioritise the Key Improvements (KIP) for the Dales Local Children's Board and agreed on "reduce young people's misuse of alcohol & drugs" & "help improve confidence & emotional well-being" as the main focus areas.
- 10 children and young people are working with the County Durham LINK & the Acute Trust to improve facilities for young patients in hospital and have also met with the North East Ambulance Service.

Support for the VCS working with Children & Young People...

There is advice and support available from the 2D team relating to your group's needs including: funding, policies, health & safety and access to training and development. Please do not hesitate to contact us to see how we can support your group.



News...

Lianne, the VCS Participation worker has supported the play work team to establish two new play sessions; Billy Row and Hunwick.

Local residents from both areas approached 2D about setting up these groups and we have provided a designated play worker for each; as well as successfully securing funding and supporting the development of policies and procedures.



Community of Interest

(COI) is a group of representatives from local voluntary and community organisations across the Durham Dales area that work with children and young people. These groups meet every six weeks, one supporting the Wear Valley area and one supporting the Teesdale area. If you are involved in a community or voluntary group you are invited to attend these meetings; the aim of the group is to share information.

There is also a weekly newsletter from the COI containing local updates and opportunities that you are invited to sign up to.



The Crook & Willington Play Project

New team member...

2D have extended their team to include a Play Support Worker to assist and enhance the Crook and Willington Play Project. The project provides opportunities for children and young people aged 5-13 years old in the area.



Richard Wells, from Bishop Auckland, has taken up this post. He will be assisting with the after school clubs already taking place at St Catherine's Community Centre, Grasmere Grove and Sunnybrow School as well as being heavily involved in identifying and setting up more clubs within the Crook and Willington areas.

He heard about the post through volunteering for the project. Whilst studying for a Sports Coaching degree Richard was interested in doing some volunteering, not only to help him with his course work but to help him gain some real experience working with children & young people.

Richard says "I have my voluntary work to thank for this job; I was told volunteering could help me gain valuable work experience that could help me when applying for jobs after my course, so I registered with the Volunteer Centre at 2D and they have supported me with both the voluntary placement and into paid employment.

In an ever-more competitive job market a qualification sometimes isn't enough, you need something to help you stand out from the crowd".

Summer fun... Richard and Michael will be very busy over the summer as the project will be running a program of activities which will include holiday clubs, sports, arts and crafts sessions, picnics in the park and trips to various venues.

If you would like to know more about local activities for children and young people contact Richard or Michael at 2D on 01388 762220 or visit www.2d.org.uk for updates.

Dragon Hunter claims bounty...

The play project's youth group that meets every Thursday at St Catherines Community Centre organised a Dragon Trail in Crook for St Georges Day. Children created 13 dragons which were then placed in shop windows. The youngsters then had to find the pictures with the child finding the most winning a prize. Thomas Hunt, five (pictured with Margaret Knipe, a member of the St Catherines Community Centre committee), found all 13 and received a £20 Argos voucher, donated by 2D. Well done to Thomas for finding all the dragons, and to all the children who took part. Also thanks to the shops who allowed dragons in their windows, it was a fun day for the children.





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Voluntary & Community Support

The 2D Magazine not only features 2D news, events, volunteering opportunities & updates, we also like to highlight the news & achievements of local voluntary and community groups, particularly from our members.

We welcome your views on this magazine & the services we provide, as this can help us make improvements.

Our staff do everything they can to make sure you are treated properly & promptly, if you have a compliment, comment or suggestion to make, please let us know. Our member and volunteer surveys will be out in May, we would appreciate your input.

contact us...

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New Road, Crook
County Durham, DL15 8QX

tel: 01388 762220

fax: 01388 762225

email: enquiries@2d.org.uk

web: www.2d.org.uk



2D is proud to be a member of NAVCA, Volunteering England and NCVO. 2D has also achieved the NAVCA Quality Award and Volunteering England Quality and MATRIX Accreditation
Company no: 3753635 Charity no: 1085048